

OLC 76-1115
15 April 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John O. Marsh, Counsellor to the President

FROM : George Cary
Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Budget Disclosure by the Senate Select Committee

I assume you are well aware that the Senate Select Committee is considering publishing the total budget of the Intelligence Community for FY 1976 in their public report to be issued on or after 26 April 1976. Such action would run counter to the precedent established by the House and Senate when they voted against an open budget (the House on 1 October 1975 by a vote of 267 to 147 and the Senate on 4 June 1974 by a vote of 55 to 33). It would also tend to undermine the progress we have made with the Senate Budget Committee concerning their interest in reviewing and publishing the budget. Such publication is also against the advice of the Director and his predecessors in office and on the basis that such disclosure would, over a period of time, reveal helpful information to the enemy and the numbers could not be satisfactorily defended publicly without disclosing what must be kept secret about our capabilities and interests. It might be helpful if the President could mention his concern to members of the Senate Select Committee if the occasion arises.



George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

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